

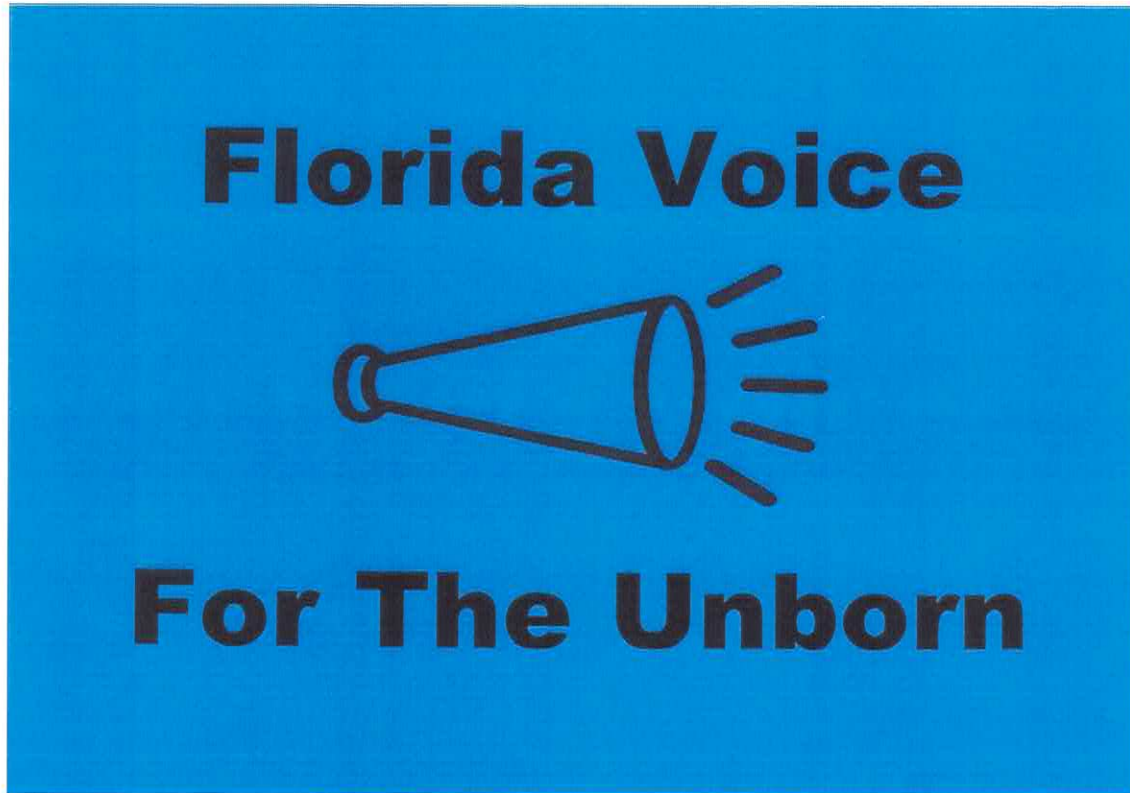
ACTION ALERT: Final Senate Committee Hearing for the 15-Week Abortion Ban!

Florida Voice for the Unborn <Andrew@FloridaVoiceForTheUnborn.com>

Fri 2/18/2022 9:28 AM

To: Andrew Shirvell <andrew@floridavoicefortheunborn.com>

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Dear Friend of the Unborn:

A few minutes after midnight on Thursday, February 17th, the Florida House of Representatives passed House Bill 5 (the 15-Week Abortion Ban). The vote was decisively in favor of this lifesaving legislation, with 78 representatives voting to approve the bill and 39 representatives voting against it.

All House Republicans voted for House Bill 5, except for pro-abortion Rep. Rene Plasencia (R—Brevard and Orange Counties), while all House Democrats voted in opposition, except for pro-life Rep. James Bush III (D—Miami-Dade County). Significantly, two Republican representatives who had voted against the 2021 Disability Abortion Ban switched their votes and supported this year's 15-Week Abortion Ban. These legislators are Rep. Mike Caruso (R—Palm Beach County) and Rep. Sam Killebrew (R—Polk County). I believe their change of heart was due, in part, to the fact that Florida Voice for the Unborn publicly castigated them after their outrageous votes against the Disability Abortion Ban last April. We were the only pro-life group to do so.

This week's midnight vote in the House followed House Bill 5's approval by its

final House committee of reference (the Health and Human Services Committee) on Thursday, February 10th. The bill was then quickly added to the House's Special Order Calendar for consideration on the House floor, starting on Tuesday, February 15th. On that day, the bill sponsor, pro-life champion Rep. Erin Grall (R—Indian River and St. Lucie Counties), defended the legislation for hours by fielding (mostly nonsensical) questions from her pro-abortion colleagues. Rep. Grall provided excellent answers, demolishing the pro-abortion representatives' unfounded objections. Also, on February 15th, fourteen pro-abortion floor amendments to the bill were heard and debated. Thankfully, all of them were overwhelmingly voted down, including amendments that would have permitted abortions after 15 weeks gestation if the children targeted in such abortions were conceived as a result of rape, incest, or an unfortunate human trafficking situation.

On Wednesday, February 16th, the full debate on House Bill 5 began on the House floor after 6:30 p.m. and lasted more than five hours. I sat in the House gallery, and was present for the entire debate and final vote. I "Live-Tweeted" the debates on both February 15th and 16th, calling out the pro-abortion legislators' misinformation/outright lies while also encouraging our pro-life representatives – many of whom rose in passionate support of the bill.

Unfortunately (for a variety of reasons), none of Florida Voice for the Unborn's proposed changes made it into the final version of House Bill 5. However, all hope is not lost yet! The legislation still must get through the state Senate, and we're going to keep pushing – no matter what!

This Monday, February 21st (Presidents' Day), the Senate Appropriations Committee will be hearing House Bill 5 (instead of its Senate companion, Senate Bill 146, which had previously passed the Senate Health Policy Committee back on February 2nd). Based on conversations I have had with staff for Senate Bill 146's sponsor, Senator Kelli Stargel (R—Lake and Polk Counties), I believe we can get an amendment to the 15-Week Abortion Ban that will permit local jurisdictions to pass their own enforceable ordinances outlawing abortion. But only if we keep the pressure on! Senator Stargel is also the chair of the Appropriations Committee – and if a favorable amendment is going to happen, it will come from her. Should House Bill 5 be amended in the Senate, it will simply be sent back to the House for another vote. This happens all the time with legislation – so the House's approval of an amended bill is not an impediment.

Our Grassroots Action Alert today will focus exclusively on contacting Senator Stargel and her staff. Remember, the Senate Appropriations Committee is considering House Bill 5 (not the Senate version). Here are the relevant talking points when contacting Senator Stargel's office:

- Thank you for your legislative efforts to end horrendous late-term abortions in our Sunshine State.
- A good way to strengthen House Bill 5 is by amending this legislation to permit cities and counties to pass their own lifesaving enforceable sanctuary-for-the-unborn ordinances here in Florida.

- Continue to stand strong against any pro-abortion amendments that seek to allow for late-term abortions on children who are conceived as a result of rape, incest, or a human trafficking situation. These children – like all children – are made in the image and likeness of our Creator and should not be brutally executed via abortion due to the crimes of their fathers.

Here are the e-mail addresses for Senator Stargel and her legislative aides:

A) With semicolons in between addresses:

Stargel.Kelli@flsenate.gov; Davis.Chad@flsenate.gov;
Barnes.Rachel@flsenate.gov

B) With commas in between addresses:

Stargel.Kelli@flsenate.gov, Davis.Chad@flsenate.gov,
Barnes.Rachel@flsenate.gov

You may “copy and paste” these addresses into the “to” header of a new e-mail message, or just click on the individual e-mail address to write a message to that individual, e.g. Senator Stargel. Be sure to write a “subject line” such as “Amend & Pass House Bill 5 (15-Week Abortion Ban)”, as well as write your own unique message and then hit send! Based on feedback, I am now grouping the e-mail addresses together separated by a semicolon (;) AND separated by a comma (,). Use whatever works best with your own particular e-mail system (e.g. Gmail, Yahoo, AOL, etc.).

Let’s also flood Senator Stargel’s office with phone calls. Per the talking points above, not only are we asking the senator to favorably amend the legislation we are also asking her to continue to stand strong AGAINST any pro-abortion amendments. The Senate Republican caucus is much less conservative than the House caucus and there are a number of weak-kneed GOP senators who would go along with an amendment to water-down the bill and permit (more) exceptions. If Senator Stargel stays strong, however, that is much less likely to happen. It’s definitely worth taking two minutes today to call Senator Stargel’s office to express the sentiments above. Remember, if you can’t get a hold of anyone, just leave a polite message. And, again, no matter what – mention that you’re with Florida Voice for the Unborn!

Here is the office phone number for Senator Stargel: (850) 487-5022

If you can attend Monday’s FINAL committee hearing for the 15-Week Abortion Ban legislation, it will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Pat Thomas Committee Room (412 Knott Building) at the state Capitol complex. We need pro-lifers to either testify in support of the legislation or “waive in support.” I’ll be there and I hope to see some of you there as well! Remember, you can fill out an appearance card when you arrive at the committee hearing.

Thank you, again, everyone for all your support of the 15-Week Abortion Ban. It's not perfect legislation, but it will save an estimated 5,000 unborn children from being dismembered in horrific late-term abortions every year. Florida Voice for the Unborn will never be satisfied with the status quo until every preborn child is protected under the laws of our state. Let's keep praying – and let's keep advocating for our voiceless unborn brothers and sisters!

P.S. Please contact Senator Stargel's office as soon as possible!

For Their Lives,



Andrew Shirvell, J.D.
Founder & Executive Director
Florida Voice for the Unborn

Florida Voice for the Unborn is a Tallahassee-based grassroots lobbying group that only focuses on pro-life issues impacting the unborn. It is strictly independent, and its work is guided by faith in God's only Son, Jesus Christ. Florida Voice for the Unborn supports all peaceful efforts by elected officials and others to end abortion and save lives. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and Parler @UnbornVoiceFL – and visit our website [HERE](#).



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